



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 645

January Session, 2007

Substitute House Bill No. 7084

House of Representatives, April 30, 2007

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING AN URBAN VIOLENCE REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM, A DATABASE OF CERTAIN PERSONS REPORTING THE LOSS OR THEFT OF A FIREARM AND FUNDING FOR THE STATE-WIDE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Grant" means an urban violence reduction grant;
- 3 (2) "Eligible agency" means a nonprofit agency authorized by a
- 4 municipality to apply for and administer a grant on behalf of such
- 5 municipality; and
- 6 (3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
- 7 Management.
- 8 (b) There is established an urban violence reduction grant program
- 9 for the purpose of reducing urban youth violence by providing grants
- 10 for programs and services for youth in Connecticut's urban centers.

11 The program shall be administered by the Office of Policy and
12 Management.

13 (c) The secretary shall, within available appropriations, award
14 grants under the program based on competitive proposals submitted
15 and evaluated as provided in this section, except that, within available
16 appropriations and subject to the requirements of subsection (g) of this
17 section, the cities of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven shall each
18 receive, annually, a grant of seven hundred twenty-five thousand
19 dollars, the cities of New London and Waterbury shall each receive,
20 annually, a grant of four hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and
21 the city of Stamford shall receive, annually, a grant of two hundred
22 thousand dollars. Such grants may be made to a municipality or to one
23 or more eligible agencies acting on behalf of a municipality.
24 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, for the fiscal year
25 ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of the
26 grant payable to each municipality in accordance with this section
27 shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total amount
28 payable in grants to all municipalities under this section exceeds the
29 amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

30 (d) Grants made under this section shall be used to provide eligible
31 programs and services for youth between twelve and eighteen years of
32 age. Such programs and services shall include, but not be limited to: (1)
33 Mentoring; (2) tutoring and enrichment activities; (3) social and
34 cultural activities; (4) athletic and recreational opportunities; and (5)
35 training in problem-solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, peer
36 counseling and similar topics designed to reduce youth violence. Grant
37 recipients shall provide for parental and youth involvement, on an
38 ongoing basis, in the planning and operation of such programs.

39 (e) The Office of Policy and Management shall publish a notice of
40 grant availability and solicit competitive proposals under the program
41 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter.
42 Municipalities and eligible agencies acting on behalf of a municipality
43 may file a grant application with the Office of Policy and Management

44 on such forms and at such times as the secretary prescribes.
45 Applications filed by eligible agencies acting on behalf of a
46 municipality shall include the endorsement of the chief elected official
47 of such municipality.

48 (f) The Office of Policy and Management shall review all grant
49 applications received under the program and determine which grant
50 applications shall be funded and at what funding levels. Criteria for
51 such determinations shall be established by the secretary and included
52 in the notice of grant availability.

53 (g) The cities of Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, New London,
54 Stamford and Waterbury shall annually submit to the Office of Policy
55 and Management a plan for the use of the grants made pursuant to
56 subsection (c) of this section, and such plan shall be subject to the
57 approval of the secretary. The plan shall be in such form, and contain
58 such information, as the secretary shall prescribe. No grant shall be
59 made to any such city pursuant to subsection (c) of this section unless
60 such city has an approved plan for the fiscal year for which the grant is
61 being made.

62 (h) The secretary may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
63 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the provisions of this section.

64 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) The Department of Public
65 Safety shall maintain a database of any person (1) who has reported
66 the loss or theft of a firearm pursuant to section 53-202g of the general
67 statutes, as amended by substitute senate bill 903 of the current
68 session, (2) who has committed an infraction or been convicted of a
69 crime pursuant to section 53-202g of the general statutes, as amended
70 by substitute senate bill 903 of the current session, and (3) who has lost
71 such firearm or from whom such firearm has been stolen but who had
72 not discovered such loss or theft as of the time a law enforcement
73 agency seized or recovered such firearm and determined such person's
74 ownership thereof.

75 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The sum of five hundred thousand

76 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Public Safety, from the
77 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the purpose
78 of funding the state-wide firearms trafficking task force established in
79 section 29-38e of the general statutes.

80 (b) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to the
81 Department of Public Safety, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
82 ending June 30, 2009, for the purpose of funding the state-wide
83 firearms trafficking task force established in section 29-38e of the
84 general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - Implements the Budget	500,000	500,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Bridgeport; Hartford; New London; New Haven; Stamford; Waterbury	Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential
Various Municipalities	Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to establish an Urban Violence Reduction Grant, within available appropriations, for six municipalities and other urban centers. The bill specifies that the following cities shall receive a grant, if appropriations are sufficient, they are:

Municipality	Amount of Grant if Fully Funded
Bridgeport	\$725,000
Hartford	\$725,000
New Haven	\$725,000
New London	\$475,000
Waterbury	\$475,000
Stamford	\$200,000
Total if Fully Funded	\$3,325,000

The bill contains provisions that if appropriations are insufficient these grants will be reduced proportionately. Additionally the bill requires OPM to establish a grant for other urban centers, and requires OPM to determine the eligibility criteria, amount of the grant, and award such grants. It is uncertain what grants, if any will be awarded, but any costs would be in addition to the grants enumerated in the bill, which cost \$3.325 million to fully fund, and all costs would be prorated to the amount of available appropriations. The budget bill, sHB 7077 as favorably reported by the appropriations committee, contains \$1 million in each year of the biennium in the Office of Policy and Management for a similarly named, but different Violence Reduction Grants. These funds are provided for a different program, and are not available to implement provisions of this bill.

The bill requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create a lost or stolen weapons database. It is anticipated that the creation of the database could result in a minimal cost to DPS associated with upgrades to current information technology database systems.

Additionally, the bill appropriates \$500,000 in each FY 08 and FY 09 for a State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force. The Appropriations Act, sHB 7077, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, contains \$500,000 in both FY 08 and FY 09 for this purpose.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, with an exception of the upgrades to the information technology database systems, which are anticipated to be a one-time cost.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7084*****AN ACT CONCERNING AN URBAN VIOLENCE REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM, A DATABASE OF CERTAIN PERSONS REPORTING THE LOSS OR THEFT OF A FIREARM AND FUNDING FOR THE STATE-WIDE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill:

1. establishes an urban violence reduction grant program within available appropriations,
2. directs the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create a lost or stolen weapons database, and
3. appropriates to DPS \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 in each of the next two fiscal years) for its State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) must establish application procedures and administer the grant program, which consists of formula grants for the state's six largest cities and competitive grants for other urban centers.

The grants are for anti-violence programs and services targeting urban youth between ages 12 and 18. OPM can award them directly to municipalities or to designated nonprofit agencies. An agency's grant applications must include the chief elected municipal official's endorsement.

OPM may adopt implementing regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007, except the weapons database provision is effective October 1, 2007.

URBAN VIOLENCE REDUCTION GRANTS

The grants may be used for:

1. training on topics designed to reduce youth violence, such as problem-solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, and peer counseling;
2. mentoring;
3. tutoring, enrichment, social, and cultural activities; and
4. athletics and recreation.

The bill requires grant recipients to involve parents and youth in program planning and operations on an ongoing basis.

Formula Grants

Table 1 shows funding levels for the state's six largest cities.

Table 1: Annual Formula Grant Funding Levels

\$725,000	Bridgeport
	Hartford
	New Haven
\$475,000	New London
	Waterbury
\$200,000	Stamford

The cities must submit annual plans to OPM, in the manner the agency prescribes, describing their intended use of grant funds. OPM cannot award grant funds unless it has approved the city's plan.

The bill directs OPM to proportionally reduce formula grant funding levels in any fiscal year in which the total of all grant awards

exceeds appropriations.

Competitive Grants

The bill requires OPM to establish criteria for awarding grants based on competitive proposals. It must include them in the annual notices of grant availability it must publish beginning in FY 08.

OPM decides which grant proposals to fund and at what level.

DPS LOST OR STOLEN WEAPONS DATABASE

The bill requires DPS to maintain a database containing the names of lawful firearm and assault weapon owners who (1) notify law enforcement that a weapon has been lost or stolen or (2) have not notified law enforcement of a theft of loss, but have had a weapon seized or recovered by the police.

If sSB 903 is enacted (see “Related Bill” below), the database must also include lawful firearm and assault weapon owners who commit the crime or infraction of failing to notify law enforcement when a weapon is lost or stolen.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

Substitute Senate Bill 903, reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee, creates the infraction of failing to report a lost or stolen assault weapon or firearm to the police within 72 hours. It makes intentional and repeat offenses felonies.

State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force

The task force is composed of state and local law enforcement officials. It is charged with (1) reviewing the problem and effects of illegal firearms trafficking, (2) identifying and focusing resources on prosecuting traffickers, (3) tracking and recovering illegally sold or distributed firearms, and (4) coordinating activities with other law enforcement agencies.

Its policy board is authorized by law to administer appropriations

and grants (CGS §§ 29-38e and 29-38f).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/11/2007)